



Foreign Agricultural Service

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Colombia

Oilseeds and Products

Colombia Applies Safeguard Duty on Refined Oils 2002

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Report Highlights:

Colombia applies safeguard duty of 29 percent for imports of refined vegetable oils from other Andean Pact members (Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela), effective July 19, 2002, and in place for six months. Duties applied to non-members of the Andean Community are unchanged and range between 17.6 and 21 percent.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bogota [CO1], CO

On July 19, 2002 the Ministry of Foreign Trade set a safeguard duty of 29 percent, to be applied during a six month period, against imports of refined soybean oil, refined flower sunseed oil and refined mixed oil coming into Colombia from the other Andean Community countries. These products are under Harmonized Codes 15.07.90.00.90, 15.12.19.00.00 and 15.17.90.00.00. This measure raises the duty on these products from zero to 29 percent.

The measure does not affect imports from outside the Andean Community, which continue to pay the basic duty of 20 percent for refined soybean oil and refined flower sunseed oil, 21 percent for refined mixed oil for imports from the US, and 17.6 percent for imports from Brazil and Argentina. Reference prices for vegetable oil imports (currently \$451 per ton for crude soybean oil) are within the price band established under the Andean Community Price Band System (the price floor is currently \$435 per ton for crude soybean oil), so no additional changes beyond the basic duties are being applied.

Colombia invoked Norm 409 from the Cartagena Agreement which allows countries members of the Andean Community to apply non-discriminatory safeguard duties to other country members when intra regional imports are causing damage to local production of specific products.

Imports of these products in the last two years are shown below:

Colombian Imports of Refined Oils (MT)			
Country Supplier	2000	2001	Growth %
Bolivia	18,067	24,457	35.4
Ecuador	7,642	12,545	64.2
Venezuela	7	9	24.3
Total Andean Countries	25,716	37,010	43.9
Argentina	8,472	4,566	-46.1
United States	36	49	36.1
World Total	34,390	41,809	21.6

Source: Colombian Custom Agency.